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# ANNUAL REPORT OF THE FIRE COMMISSIONER Alberta DEPARTMENT OF PROVINCIAL SECRETARY 1951

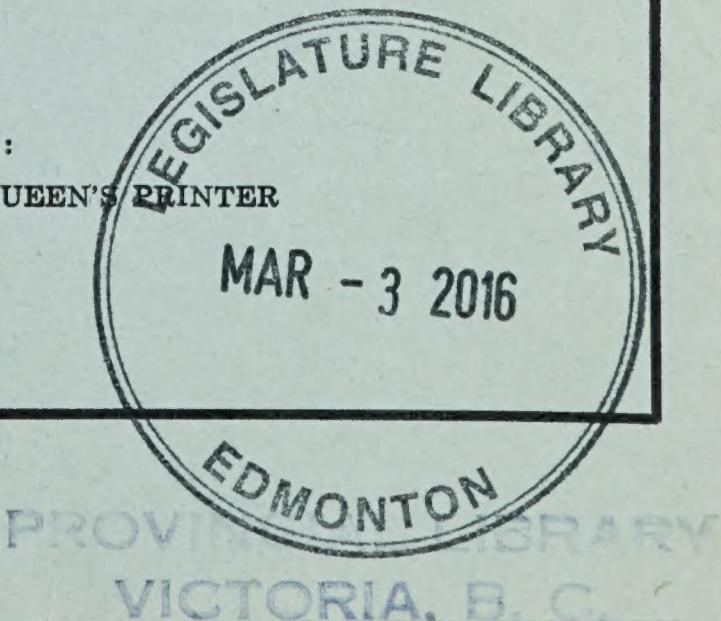
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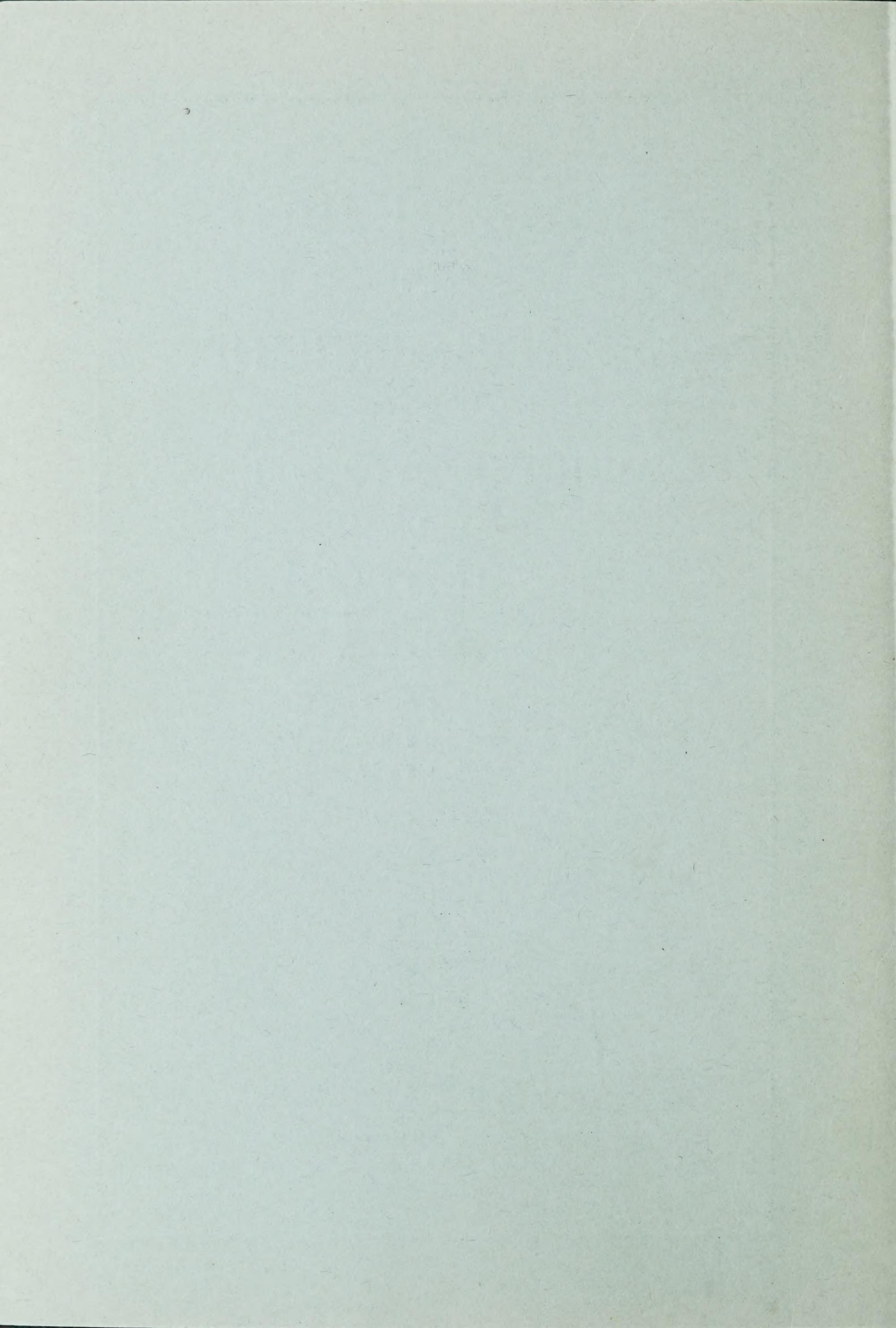
THE HONOURABLE C. E. GERHART  
Provincial Secretary



EDMONTON:  
PRINTED BY A. SHNITKA, QUEEN'S PRINTER

1952





**ANNUAL REPORT**  
OF THE  
**FIRE COMMISSIONER**  
**Alberta**  
**DEPARTMENT OF PROVINCIAL**  
**SECRETARY**  
**1951**

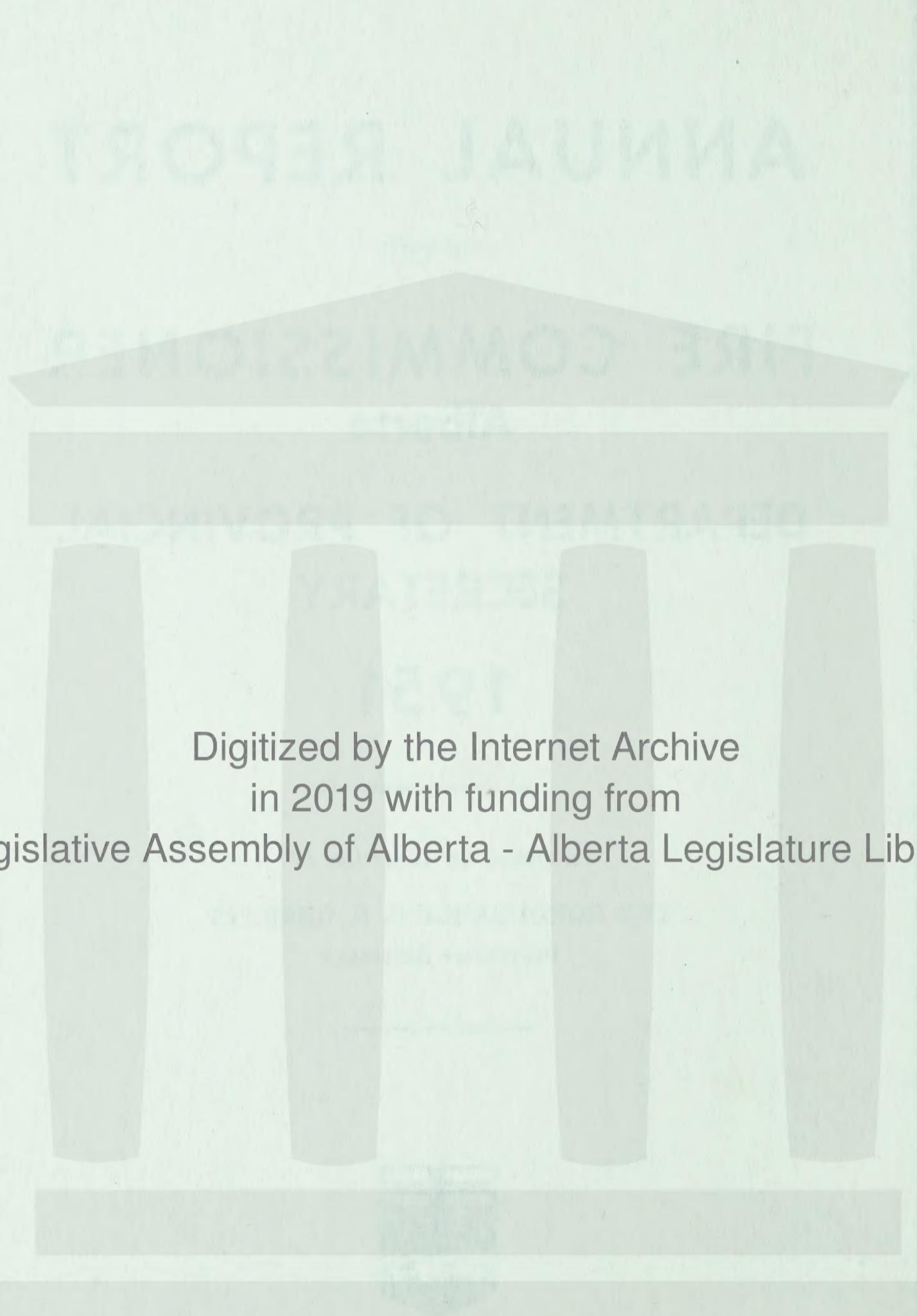
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GOVERNMENT OF THE PROVINCE OF ALBERTA  
DEPARTMENT OF PROVINCIAL SECRETARY  
OFFICE OF THE FIRE COMMISSIONER

Edmonton, April 26th, 1952.

To: THE HONOURABLE C. E. GERHART, M. L. A.,  
Provincial Secretary of Alberta,  
Edmonton, Alberta.

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to the provisions of section 35 of The Fire Prevention Act, I have the honour to submit the Thirty-Second Annual Report of the operations of the Office of the Fire Commissioner, for the calendar year 1951.

(1) A comparison of 1951 and 1950 fire losses is as follows:-

<u>Year</u>	<u>Number of Fires</u>	<u>Per cent increase</u>	<u>Amount of loss</u>	<u>Per cent decrease</u>
1951	3,009	8	\$ 4,661,963.	11
1950	2,798		5,242,553.	

Although the number of fires has increased, as has the population, still the amount of the fire loss has decreased, which indicates lower losses per fire and credit for this can be attributed to greater fire department efficiency. Still more encouraging, however, is the decrease in the number of deaths by fire.

(2) Table No. 6 shows the losses in the different building classifications. The largest loss occurred in the City of Edmonton at a fire in the Crescent Furniture store where the loss totalled \$261,240. A Captain of the Edmonton Fire Department lost his life fighting this fire. RETAIL STORE fire losses show a further increase and account for the largest property loss of any group. The amount of the loss increased 28% over RETAIL STORE losses for the year 1950. FARM FIRE LOSSES decreased slightly, but still 395 fires destroyed \$626,346. worth of farm property. The number of DWELLING FIRE LOSSES increased 10%, but the total amount of the DWELLING FIRE LOSSES showed a decrease of 4%. SCHOOL FIRE LOSSES increased in number and the amount of the loss was more than double the previous year, due chiefly to one large loss of a school under construction in the City of Edmonton. The loss for FLOUR MILLS AND GRAIN ELEVATORS was more than double the loss for 1950, and METAL WORKERS AND GARAGE FIRE LOSSES increased 19%. The losses at HOSPITALS AND INSTITUTIONS, other than schools, were greatly reduced. Item 20, Table No. 6, shows fire losses to MOTOR VEHICLES AND TRUCKS, not otherwise classified under buildings and contents.

(3) One-fifth of the total number of fires were of UNKNOWN ORIGIN. SMOKING continues to lead the number of known causes, although losses caused by SMOKERS' CARELESSNESS make up only 3% of the total fire loss. More than one-half of the total fire loss results from causes not determined. Of the known causes, STOVES, FURNACES AND PIPES continue to be high in the list and causes the greatest amount of any single loss cause, being more than 20% of the amount of loss from the known causes.

(4) Due to the large number of fires coming under the heading of MISCELLANEOUS, Table No. 7A has been added, listing the miscellaneous causes as reported.

- (5) Inspection activities shown in Table No. 9 lists the number of written fire prevention orders, the number of written recommendations, and the number of buildings inspected by the Fire Commissioner's staff. A new system of follow-up inspections by the fire chiefs on written recommendations, dealing with inspections conducted jointly with the fire chief, encourages greater fire department participation in inspection work. (See Table No. 12 for inspection work reported by fire departments.)
- (6) There has been an increase in the number of fires investigated. Six convictions have been recorded for ARSON. Fires of INCENDIARY or SUSPECTED INCENDIARY origin show an increase of 17% over the previous year.
- (7) Special activities have been reported in Table No. 9. The Fire Prevention Education program includes public meetings where fire prevention films have been shown, and civil defence work has been included in our records. The Deputy Fire Commissioner, Mr. M. J. Bedard, acted as Instructor at Provincial Civil Defence Schools for approximately two months during the year. The Fire Commissioner, the Deputy Fire Commissioner, and two other inspectors of the Edmonton office staff have been engaging part-time in civil defence work. Plan checking of property such as schools, hospitals, hotels, dormitories, and other various occupancies has entailed additional staff work in the Edmonton office and therefore less time has been spent on town and village fire inspections.
- (8) A program to assist municipalities in improving fire protection facilities, and helping in the organization and training of fire departments, has been continued. Fire inspection work by fire departments has increased as shown by Table No. 12. The program of training fire department instructors and the organization and supervision of a plan for standardizing 2 1/2 inch fire hose couplings and fittings to the Alberta Mutual Aid Thread has increased the work of the Fire Commissioner and additional staff will be requested for the extra work created by civil defence. This is believed necessary in order that the routine inspection work required to discover and eliminate fire hazards can continue to receive the necessary attention.

The Fire Commissioner attended the A.C.F.M. and the D.F.P.A. Annual Meetings at Windsor, Ontario, and the N.F.P.A. Annual Meeting at Detroit, Michigan, in May. The Fire Commissioner was elected Vice-President of the A.C.F.M., and at the 1951 meeting at Windsor delivered an address on "How Alberta Fire Services are Meeting the Demands of Civil Defence". The Fire Commissioner and the Deputy Fire Commissioner also completed the Civil Defence Course on ABC Warfare conducted by The Royal Canadian Army Medical Corps at Camp Borden, Ontario.

I wish to report the excellent co-operation and faithful discharge of all duties by members of my staff. I can honestly report a sincere effort to give the best possible service to the public. I wish to express appreciation for the assistance and co-operation which has been extended to this office by the branches of this department and by other departments of the Civil Service. I wish to thank all members of the fire services throughout the province, and particularly the volunteer firemen for their efforts and sacrifices to curb fire losses. I would also like to express appreciation for the work of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, the Municipal Police Departments, and the Fire Underwriters' Investigation Bureau, Inc., for their work in the investigation of suspicious fires. It is also noteworthy to mention that the interest of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce, and all other persons and associations, has made possible more successful Fire Prevention Week programs in the various municipalities.

Our purpose will be to stimulate a wider interest in fire prevention and fire protection to help reduce Alberta's fire waste.

Respectfully submitted,

A. E. BRIDGES  
Fire Commissioner

**TABLE NO. 1**  
**A COMPARISON OF THE MONTHLY LOSSES IN 1950 AND 1951**

<u>Month</u>	<u>No. of Fires</u>	<u>1950</u>	<u>Loss</u>	<u>1951</u>	<u>No. of Fires</u>	<u>Loss</u>
January	373	\$ 747, 194.		300	\$ 493, 356.	
February	257	452, 882.		256	228, 989.	
March	263	250, 830.		313	569, 107.	
April	213	314, 019.		267	730, 835.	
May	232	367, 472.		252	367, 068.	
June	229	1, 176, 161.		213	191, 231.	
July	162	138, 632.		227	275, 059.	
August	187	248, 916.		215	332, 138.	
September	199	392, 242.		181	179, 078.	
October	187	123, 415.		218	224, 247.	
November	258	339, 318.		217	227, 281.	
December	238	691, 472.		350	843, 574.	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2, 798</b>	<b>\$5, 242, 553.</b>		<b>3, 009</b>	<b>\$4, 661, 963.</b>	

**TABLE NO. 2**  
**COMPARISON OF YEARLY FIRE LOSSES FROM JANUARY 1st, 1942 TO DECEMBER 31st, 1951**

<u>Calendar Year</u>	<u>No. of Fires</u>	<u>Property Loss</u>	<u>No. of Deaths</u>	<u>Per Capita Loss</u>
1942	1, 632	\$ 1, 539, 175.59	24	1.93
1943	1, 767	1, 259, 061.39	38	1.54
1944	1, 634	1, 896, 283.59	36	2.32
1945	2, 138	2, 208, 199.71	30	2.67
1946	2, 308	2, 544, 688.99	45	3.20
1947	2, 118	2, 237, 643.29	31	2.72
1948	2, 285	3, 815, 868.36	49	4.51
1949	2, 464	5, 299, 584.00	37	6.08
1950	2, 798	5, 242, 553.00	37	5.85
1951	3, 009	4, 661, 963.00	28	4.98
<b>TEN-YEAR TOTAL</b>	<b>22, 153</b>	<b>\$30, 705, 020.92</b>	<b>355</b>	

Population (1951) ..... 936, 556      Per Capita Loss (1951) ..... 4.98

**TABLE NO. 3**  
**CLASSIFICATION AND CAUSES OF PROPERTY LOSS IN 1951**  
(Reference to Table No. 6)

<u>Property</u>	<u>Causes</u>	<u>No. of Fires</u>
DWELLINGS, APARTMENTS, THEIR GARAGES AND OUTBUILDINGS - EXCLUDING FARMS		
(a) Brick - Protected		
Sparks on roofs	.....	1
Exposure Fires	.....	1
Smoking (cigarettes, cigars, pipes and matches)	.....	14
Matches (other than smokers' carelessness)	.....	1
Lights (other than electric)	.....	1
Electricity	.....	2
Lightning (unrodded buildings)	.....	1
Miscellaneous causes of fires	.....	5
Unknown causes of fires	.....	6
		<b>32</b>

<u>Property</u>	<u>Causes</u>	<u>No. of Fires</u>
(b) Frame - Protected		
Chimneys, Flues, Overheated and Defective .....	21	
Stoves, Furnaces, Boilers and their pipes .....	77	
Hot Ashes, Coals and Open Fires .....	33	
Sparks on roofs .....	2	
Exposure Fires .....	11	
Smoking (cigarettes, cigars, pipes and matches) .....	744	
Matches (other than smokers' carelessness) .....	60	
Lights (other than electric) .....	10	
Electricity .....	133	
Lightning (unrodded buildings) .....	24	
Spontaneous ignition .....	8	
Petroleum and its products .....	10	
Incendiарism .....	2	
Miscellaneous causes of fires .....	219	
Unknown causes of fires .....	183	
		<u>1,537</u>

(c) Brick and Frame - Unprotected

Chimneys, Flues, Overheated and Defective .....	19
Stoves, Furnaces, Boilers and their pipes .....	28
Hot Ashes, Coals and Open Fires .....	7
Sparks on roofs .....	1
Exposure Fires .....	10
Smoking (cigarettes, cigars, pipes and matches) .....	48
Matches (other than smokers' carelessness) .....	10
Electricity .....	26
Lightning (unrodded buildings) .....	5
Petroleum and its products .....	8
Incendiарism .....	2
Miscellaneous causes of fires .....	20
Unknown causes of fires .....	62
	<u>246</u>

FARM PROPERTY

Chimneys, Flues, Overheated and Defective .....	45
Stoves, Furnaces, Boilers and their pipes .....	50
Hot Ashes, Coals and Open Fires .....	14
Sparks on roofs .....	4
Exposure Fires .....	7
Smoking (cigarettes, cigars, pipes and matches) .....	19
Matches (other than smokers' carelessness) .....	11
Lights (other than electric) .....	4
Electricity .....	18
Lightning (unrodded buildings) .....	27
Spontaneous Ignition .....	8
Petroleum and its products .....	8
Incendiарism .....	3
Miscellaneous causes of fires .....	30
Unknown causes of fires .....	147
	<u>395</u>

CHURCHES

Chimneys, Flues, Overheated and Defective .....	1
Stoves, Furnaces, Boilers and their pipes .....	2
Exposure Fires .....	1
Electricity .....	1
Spontaneous Ignition .....	1
Unknown causes of fires .....	7
	<u>13</u>

<u>Property</u>	<u>Causes</u>	<u>No. of Fires</u>
<b>HOSPITALS AND SANATORIA</b>		
Electricity .....	1	
Miscellaneous causes of fires .....	2	
Unknown causes of fires .....	3	
	6	
<b>PUBLIC HALLS</b>		
Stoves, Furnaces, Boilers and their pipes .....	2	
Hot Ashes, Coals and Open Fires .....	1	
Smoking (cigarettes, cigars, pipes and matches) .....	3	
Miscellaneous causes of fires .....	1	
Unknown causes of fires .....	2	
	9	
<b>SCHOOLS AND OTHER EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS</b>		
Chimneys, Flues, Overheated and Defective .....	1	
Stoves, Furnaces, Boilers and their pipes .....	6	
Hot Ashes, Coals and Open Fires .....	2	
Exposure Fires .....	1	
Smoking (cigarettes, cigars, pipes and matches) .....	2	
Matches (other than smokers' carelessness) .....	2	
Spontaneous Ignition .....	1	
Miscellaneous causes of fires .....	5	
Unknown causes of fires .....	14	
	34	
<b>ALL OTHER INSTITUTIONAL BUILDINGS</b>		
Smoking (cigarettes, cigars, pipes and matches) .....	4	
Electricity .....	1	
Miscellaneous causes of fires .....	1	
Unknown causes of fires .....	1	
	7	
<b>WAREHOUSES</b>		
Chimneys, Flues, Overheated and Defective .....	1	
Stoves, Furnaces, Boilers and their pipes .....	3	
Hot Ashes, Coals and Open Fires .....	1	
Sparks on roofs .....	1	
Exposure Fires .....	4	
Smoking (cigarettes, cigars, pipes and matches) .....	2	
Matches (other than smokers' carelessness) .....	2	
Electricity .....	2	
Petroleum and its products .....	1	
Miscellaneous causes of fires .....	7	
Unknown causes of fires .....	15	
	39	
<b>RETAIL STORES AND CONTENTS</b>		
Chimneys, Flues, Overheated and Defective .....	4	
Stoves, Furnaces, Boilers and their pipes .....	10	
Hot Ashes, Coals and Open Fires .....	10	
Sparks on roofs .....	1	
Exposure Fires .....	39	
Smoking (cigarettes, cigars, pipes and matches) .....	25	
Matches (other than smokers' carelessness) .....	2	
Lights (other than electric) .....	3	
Electricity .....	21	
Spontaneous Ignition .....	3	
Petroleum and its products .....	4	
Incendiarism .....	2	
Miscellaneous causes of fires .....	13	
Unknown causes of fires .....	84	
	221	

<u>Property</u>	<u>Causes</u>	<u>No. of Fires</u>
HOTELS		
	Stoves, Furnaces, Boilers and their pipes .....	2
	Exposure Fires .....	2
	Smoking (cigarettes, cigars, pipes and matches).....	52
	Lights (other than electric) .....	2
	Electricity .....	1
	Miscellaneous causes of fires .....	5
	Unknown causes of fires .....	13
		77
FOOD PLANTS AND DISTILLERIES		
	Stoves, Furnaces, Boilers and their pipes .....	1
	Smoking (cigarettes, cigars, pipes and matches) .....	1
	Electricity .....	1
	Lightning (unrodded buildings) .....	1
	Miscellaneous causes of fires .....	5
	Unknown causes of fires .....	2
		11
FLOUR MILLS AND GRAIN ELEVATORS		
	Stoves, Furnaces, Boilers and their pipes .....	2
	Exposure Fires .....	2
	Smoking (cigarettes, cigars, pipes and matches) .....	1
	Spontaneous Ignition .....	2
	Miscellaneous causes of fires .....	5
	Unknown causes of fires .....	6
		18
OIL PROPERTIES AND OIL TANKS		
	Stoves, Furnaces, Boilers and their pipes .....	1
	Smoking (cigarettes, cigars, pipes and matches) .....	2
	Electricity .....	1
	Petroleum and its products .....	8
	Miscellaneous causes of fires .....	8
	Unknown causes of fires .....	13
		33
SAW AND SHINGLE MILLS		
	Lightning (unrodded buildings) .....	1
	Unknown causes of fires .....	1
		2
LUMBER YARDS		
	Miscellaneous causes of fires .....	1
	Unknown causes of fires .....	3
		4
WOODWORKERS		
	Matches (other than smokers' carelessness) .....	1
	Unknown causes of fires .....	3
		4
METAL WORKERS - GARAGES		
	Chimneys, Flues, Overheated and Defective .....	4
	Stoves, Furnaces, Boilers and their pipes .....	12
	Hot Ashes, Coals and Open Fires .....	5
	Exposure Fires .....	1
	Smoking (cigarettes, cigars, pipes and matches) .....	2
	Matches (other than smokers' carelessness) .....	2
	Lights (other than electric) .....	1
	Electricity .....	7
	Petroleum and its products .....	9
	Miscellaneous causes of fires .....	23
	Unknown causes of fires .....	32
		98

<u>Property</u>	<u>Causes</u>	<u>No. of Fires</u>
<b>MINING PROPERTY</b>		
Matches (other than smokers' carelessness)	.....	1
Lights (other than electric)	.....	1
Electricity	.....	1
Lightning (unrodded buildings)	.....	1
Spontaneous Ignition	.....	1
Unknown causes of fires	.....	3
		<u>8</u>
<b>RAILWAY PROPERTY, LIGHT AND POWER PLANTS</b>		
Stoves, Furnaces, Boilers and their pipes	.....	3
Hot Ashes, Coals and Open Fires	.....	4
Electricity	.....	1
Miscellaneous causes of fires	.....	1
Unknown causes of fires	.....	8
		<u>17</u>
<b>MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURING</b>		
<b>PREMISES</b>		
Chimneys, Flues, Overheated and Defective	.....	3
Stoves, Furnaces, Boilers and their pipes	.....	2
Hot Ashes, Coals and Open Fires	.....	1
Electricity	.....	2
Spontaneous Ignition	.....	1
Petroleum and its products	.....	1
Miscellaneous causes of fires	.....	1
Unknown causes of fires	.....	9
		<u>20</u>
<b>MISCELLANEOUS NON-MANUFACTURING</b>		
<b>PREMISES</b>		
Chimneys, Flues, Overheated and Defective	.....	5
Stoves, Furnaces, Boilers and their pipes	.....	19
Hot Ashes, Coals and Open Fires	.....	5
Exposure Fires	.....	10
Smoking (cigarettes, cigars, pipes and matches)	.....	7
Electricity	.....	10
Lightning (unrodded buildings)	.....	2
Spontaneous Ignition	.....	2
Petroleum and its products	.....	3
Incendiарism	.....	4
Miscellaneous causes of fires	.....	16
Unknown causes of fires	.....	44
		<u>127</u>
<b>PROPERTY - OTHER THAN BUILDINGS</b>		
Stoves, Furnaces, Boilers and their pipes	.....	4
Hot Ashes, Coals and Open Fires	.....	1
Smoking (cigarettes, cigars, pipes and matches)	.....	6
Electricity	.....	14
Petroleum and its products	.....	2
Incendiарism	.....	1
Miscellaneous causes of fires	.....	12
Unknown causes of fires	.....	11
		<u>51</u>

TABLE NO. 4  
INSTITUTION AND ASSEMBLY BUILDINGS - (Excluding Theatres and Clubs)

Location	Occupancy	Damage	Class of Building	Cause
Edmonton	Sunday School	\$ 10.	Frame	Unknown
Edmonton	Church	475.	Frame	Unknown
Lougheed	Church	622.	Frame	Unknown
Black Diamond	Hall	4,006.	Frame	Gas burning furnace
Shouldice	Hall	3,816.	Frame	Cigarette
Red Deer	Hall	9.	Brick	Cigarette
Athabasca	School	38.	Frame	Chimney
Brant	School	2,363.	Frame	Overheated stove
Big Valley	School	42,100.	Brick	Overheated furnace
Standard	School	5,276.	Frame	Overheated furnace
Picture Butte	School	89.	Frame	Hot coals
Calgary	Convent	30.	Brick	Unknown
St. Paul	Teacherage	2,062.	Frame	Unknown
Calgary	Armouries	1,941.	Frame	Cigarette
Holden	Church	1,433.	Frame	Chimney
Edson	Church	1,163.	Frame	Overheated pipe
Edmonton	Hall	1,000.	Frame	Unknown
Calgary	Hospital	149.	Brick	Exploding oxygen tank
Turner Siding	Teacherage	1,525.	Frame	Overheated stove
Edmonton	School	297.	Brick	Spontaneous ignition
Czar	School	24.	Frame	Unknown
Lacombe	Hospital	591.	Frame	Hot plate
Edmonton	School	142,629.	Brick	Hot coals
Gadsby	Church	15.	Frame	Explosion
Calgary	Hospital	11.	Brick	Hot ashes
Grouard	Convent	250.	Frame	Unknown
Edmonton	School	37.	Frame	Unknown
Czar	School	75.	Frame	Unknown
Edmonton	School	20.	Frame	Unknown
Czar	School	1,000.	Frame	Unknown
Foothills	School	3,400.	Frame	Unknown
Stony Plain	School	7,283.	Frame	Grass fire
Calgary	Church	177.	Frame	Heating wax on stove
Edmonton	Hall	330.	Frame	Unknown
Jasper Place	Hall	30.	Frame	Unknown
Edmonton	Church	5,231.	Brick	Unknown
Lethbridge	Hospital	676.	Brick	Unknown
Edmonton	School	68.	Brick	Smoke damage

Cause

<u>Class of Building</u>	<u>Cause</u>
Steel	Cigarette
Frame	Spontaneous ignition
Frame	Unknown
Frame	Unknown
Brick	Rays from sun lamp
Brick	Sparks from heater
Log	Breaking of alcohol flask
Brick	Exposure
Frame	Unknown
Frame	Drapes ignited
Brick	Unknown
Brick	Cigarette
Brick	Matches in woodbox
Stone	Cigarette
Brick Veneer	Unknown
Frame	Unknown
Frame	Cigarette
Frame	Short circuit
Frame	Overheated stove pipe
Frame	Overheated stove pipe
Frame	Exposure
Frame	Cigarette
Brick	Grease in oven caught fire
Frame	Unknown
Frame	Unknown
Frame	Unknown
Frame	Cigarette
Frame	Matches
Frame	Coal gas explosion
Frame	Unknown

Damage

125.	
3,664.	
612.	
289.	
20.	
130.	
552.	
1,862.	
4,428.	
93.	
70.	
1,890.	
89.	
40.	
863.	
5,000.	
35.	
50.	
30.	
1,700.	
15.	
200.	
1,825.	
300.	
1,590.	
971.	
11,430.	
242.	
76.	
7,800.	
500.	

Occupancy

Hall	Drumheller	125.
Church	Calgary	3,664.
School	Camrose	612.
Rectory	Spruce Grove	289.
Hospital	Edmonton	20.
School	Rio Grande	130.
Hospital	Edmonton	552.
Church	Islay	1,862.
School	Camrose	4,428.
Armoury	Drumheller	93.
Orphanage	Midnapore	70.
Hall	St. Albert	1,890.
Teachorage	Rocky Mt. House	89.
Y.M.C.A.	Calgary	40.
Hospital	Barrhead	863.
Hall	Mayerthorpe	5,000.
Y.M.C.A.	Edmonton	35.
Church	Calgary	50.
Hospital	Stettler	30.
Hall	Youngstown	1,700.
School dormitory	Hanna	15.
School	Lac La Biche	200.
School	Colinton	1,825.
School dormitory	Calgary	300.
School	Wainwright	1,590.
School	Camrose	971.
Church	Thorhild	11,430.
School	Peace River	242.
School	Fairview	76.
School	Wetaskiwin	7,800.
Convent	Fort Kent	500.

TOTAL

\$275,742.

TABLE NO. 5

LOSSES CAUSED BY LIGHTNING

Month	Location	Occupancy	Damage		Total
			Building	Contents	
June	Coalhurst S 1/2 6-26-2 W5M	Dwelling	\$ 100.	\$ 100.	\$ 100.
	Delburne	Dwelling	60.	60.	60.
	Carbondale	Dwelling	69.	69.	69.
		Hoist House	607.	607.	607.
July	Calgary	Dwelling	3.	3.	3.
	St. Paul	Dwelling	112.	112.	112.
	Edmonton	Dwelling	498.	498.	498.
	Calgary	Dwelling	40.	40.	40.
	Edmonton	Dwelling	50.	50.	50.
	Edmonton	Dwelling	51.	36.	87.
	Edmonton	Dwelling	41.	39.	80.
	Edmonton	Dwelling	2.	20.	22.
	Calgary	Dwelling	22.	22.	22.
	Calgary	Dwelling	100.	100.	100.
	Calgary	Dwelling	73.	73.	73.
	Edmonton	Dwelling	60.	60.	60.
	Grande Prairie	Dwelling	35.	35.	35.
	Edmonton	Dwelling	50.	50.	50.
	Edmonton	Dwelling	16.	16.	16.
	Lethbridge	Dwelling	34.	34.	34.
	Calgary	Dwelling	95.	95.	95.
	Calgary	Dwelling	8.	8.	8.
	Edmonton	Dwelling	18.	18.	18.
	Lethbridge	Dwelling	80.	80.	80.
	Grande Prairie	Dwelling	2, 586.	2, 586.	2, 986.
	Lethbridge	Dwelling	16.	16.	16.
	Edmonton	Dwelling	1, 285.	1, 285.	1, 453.
	Beverly	Dwelling	41.	41.	48.
	St. Paul	Dwelling	112.	112.	112.
	Olds	Dwelling	10.	10.	10.
	Lundbreck	Barn	3, 778.	3, 778.	3, 778.

<u>Month</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Occupancy</u>	<u>Building</u>	<u>Damage</u>
July	Didsbury	Dwelling	31.	\$ 11.
	Didsbury	Dwelling	31.	\$ 62.
	Volmer	Barn	1,000.	1,000.
	Vegreville	Dwelling	75.	75.
	Cooking Lake	Dwelling	35.	35.
	SE 1/4 1-24-2 W5M	Dwelling	53.	77.
	Westlock	Dwelling	31.	31.
	Camrose	Dwelling	48.	48.
	Picardville	Dwelling	15.	25.
	Rusylvia	Dwelling	200.	200.
	Vegreville	Granary	648.	648.
	DuhameL	Garage	5.	31.
	Warspite	Barn	2,370.	2,370.
	Crossfield	Dwelling	107.	107.
	Sexsmith	Dwelling	22.	22.
	Tofield	Barn	4,401.	4,401.
	Duffield	Dwelling	6.	65.
	Clive	Barn	1,071.	461.
	Ribstone	Barn	151.	151.
	Calgary	Distillery	30.	30.
	Granada	Sawmill	710.	710.
	Devon	Pump House	98.	98.
	Edmonton	Dwelling	11.	11.
	Bowness	Dwelling	37.	37.
	Rochester	Welding Shop	3,000.	2,500.
	Glendon	Dwelling	19.	5,500.
	Tawatinaw	Dwelling	3,000.	1,000.
	Blackfald's	Dwelling	4.	4,000.
	Veteran.	Barn	58.	4.
	Edmonton	Restaurant	36.	58.
	November			36.
		TOTAL	\$26,120.	\$6,022.

<u>Occupancy</u>	<u>Building</u>	<u>Contents</u>	<u>Damage</u>	<u>Total</u>
Dwelling	31.	\$ 11.	\$ 11.	\$ 11.
Dwelling	1,000.	31.	62.	62.
Barn	75.		1,000.	1,000.
Dwelling	35.		75.	75.
Dwelling	53.		35.	35.
Dwelling	24.		77.	77.
Dwelling	31.		31.	31.
Dwelling	48.		48.	48.
Dwelling	15.		10.	25.
Dwelling	10.		10.	25.
Dwelling	200.		200.	200.
Granary	648.		648.	648.
Garage	5.		5.	31.
Barn	2,370.		2,370.	2,370.
Dwelling	107.		107.	107.
Dwelling	22.		22.	22.
Barn	4,401.		4,401.	4,401.
Dwelling	6.		6.	65.
Barn	1,071.		1,071.	1,532.
Barn	151.		151.	151.
Distillery	30.		30.	30.
Sawmill	710.		710.	710.
Pump House	98.		98.	98.
Dwelling	11.		11.	11.
Dwelling	37.		37.	37.
Welding Shop	3,000.		2,500.	5,500.
Dwelling	19.		19.	19.
Dwelling	3,000.		1,000.	4,000.
Dwelling	4.		4.	4.
Barn	58.		58.	58.
Restaurant	36.		36.	36.
				\$32,142.

**TABLE NO. 6**  
**FIRE LOSS BY PROPERTY CLASSIFICATION**

<u>Property</u>	<u>No. of Fires</u>	<u>Total of Damage</u>
1. Brick, etc., Dwellings - Protected .....	32	\$ 3,139.
2. Frame, etc. Dwellings - Protected .....	1,537	345,077.
3. Brick and Frame, etc., Dwellings Unprotected .....	246	206,390.
4. Farm Property .....	395	626,346.
5A. Churches .....	13	25,421.
5B. Hospitals and Sanatoria .....	6	1,749.
5C. Public Halls .....	9	17,781.
5D. Schools and Educational Institutions .....	34	227,896.
5E. All other Institutional Buildings .....	7	2,895.
6. Warehouses of all kinds .....	39	49,677.
7. Retail Stores .....	221	(Buildings) 630,490. (Contents) 796,590.
8. Hotels .....	77	(Buildings) 132,481. (Contents) 57,060.
9. Food Plants, Distilleries, etc. ....	11	9,743.
10. Flour Mills and Grain Elevators .....	18	372,831.
11. Oil Risks, Oil Tanks, etc. ....	33	72,573.
12. Saw and Shingle Mills .....	2	32,132.
13. Lumber Yards .....	4	48,571.
14. Woodworkers .....	4	851.
15. Metal Workers - Garages .....	98	339,725.
16. Mining Property .....	8	75,282.
17. Railway Property, Light and Power Plants .....	17	30,921.
18. Miscellaneous Manufacturing Premises .....	20	109,747.
19. Miscellaneous Non-Manufacturing Premises .....	127	416,171.
20. Property Other Than Buildings .....	51	30,424.
<b>TOTAL .....</b>	<b>3,009</b>	<b>\$4,661,963.</b>

**TABLE NO. 7**  
**CAUSES OF FIRES**

<u>Causes</u>	<u>No. of Fires</u>	<u>Total of Damage</u>
51. Chimneys, Flues, Overheated and Defective .....	104	\$ 191,112.
52. Stoves, Furnaces, Boilers and their pipes .....	224	395,920.
53. Hot Ashes, Coals and Open Fires .....	84	211,595.
54. Sparks on roofs .....	10	6,764.
55. Exposure Fires .....	89	282,333.
56. Smoking (cigarettes, cigars, pipes and matches) .....	932	110,732.
57. Matches (other than smokers' carelessness) .....	92	24,714.
58. Lights (other than electric) .....	22	12,700.
59. Electricity .....	243	184,706.
60. Lightning (unrodded buildings) .....	62	32,142.
61. Spontaneous Ignition .....	27	49,454.
62. Petroleum and its products .....	54	178,940.
63. Incendiaryism .....	14	59,608.
64. Miscellaneous (See Table No. 7A) .....	380	220,689.
65. Motion Picture Film Ignition .....	Nil	Nil
66. Unknown causes of fires .....	672	2,700,554.
<b>TOTAL .....</b>	<b>3,009</b>	<b>\$4,661,963.</b>

TABLE NO. 7A

CAUSES OF FIRES - (Breakdown of No. 64, Miscellaneous)

<u>Causes</u>	<u>No. of Fires</u>	<u>Damage</u>
1. Materials too close to heat and open flame .....	131	\$ 10,078.
2. Hot grease and wax .....	48	20,324.
3. Firecrackers .....	18	2,949.
4. Motor backfired igniting gasoline .....	13	12,567.
5. Smoke damage .....	13	5,732.
6. Thawing plumbing .....	13	11,895.
7. Welding torch .....	12	61,887.
8. Natural gas explosion .....	10	5,366.
9. Blow torches .....	10	10,229.
10. Coal gas explosion .....	9	11,000.
11. Child dropped burning paper .....	8	513.
12. Garbage fire .....	6	5,080.
13. Damage to equipment .....	5	6,562.
14. Burned clothing whilst ironing .....	4	48.
15. Christmas decorations .....	4	26,375.
16. Awning damaged by fire .....	4	675.
17. Hot pan placed on chair cover .....	4	232.
18. Belt friction .....	4	7,526.
19. Children set fire with cigarette lighter .....	4	1,077.
20. Lumber ignited while thawing ground .....	3	172.
21. Exhaust pipe set fire to wall .....	3	979.
22. Children playing with fire .....	3	1,870.
23. Tractor ignited from gasoline .....	3	2,166.
24. Explosion of cleaning fluid .....	3	1,839.
25. Child pulled burning box out of furnace .....	2	436.
26. Hallowe'en lantern .....	2	100.
27. Ham in oven ignited .....	2	476.
28. Burning rags blown under porch .....	2	334.
29. Explosion in oxygen tank .....	2	160.
30. Melting lead .....	2	625.
31. Various .....	2	136.
32. Ignition of paint remover .....	2	214.
33. Flares .....	2	729.
34. Sparks from machine .....	2	1,320.
35. Trespassers .....	1	3,780.
36. Child threw burning brand in barn .....	1	43.
37. Sun shining on cigarette lighter .....	1	25.
38. Clothing destroyed in school bus fire .....	1	24.
39. Hog knocked lamp over .....	1	800.
40. Bread slicing machine destroyed by fire .....	1	15.
41. Wood became overheated .....	1	583.
42. Heating jute sacks .....	1	29.
43. Cooking tires .....	1	808.
44. Chemicals burned shirt .....	1	6.
45. Customer set fire to bed clothing .....	1	16.
46. Truck struck gasoline pump .....	1	50.
47. Faulty operation of Kerrick Kleaner .....	1	160.
48. Fire patching equipment .....	1	450.
49. Alcohol flask broke in experiment .....	1	552.
50. Tire under tank .....	1	69.
51. Trying to start snowmobile .....	1	1,049.
52. Priest's vestment damaged .....	1	30.
53. Clothing in suitcase burst into flames .....	1	47.
54. Tumbler dryer caught fire .....	1	353.
55. Coat burned in automobile .....	1	5.
56. Fire started to smoke meat got out of control .....	1	22.
57. Child pushed lamp against wall .....	1	8.
58. Gas control lever moved too high .....	1	60.
59. Paint ignited .....	1	34.
<b>TOTAL .....</b>	<b>380</b>	<b>\$220,689.</b>

TABLE NO. 8  
LARGEST LOSSES DURING THE YEAR

<u>Location</u>	<u>Occupancy</u>	<u>Loss</u>	<u>Cause</u>
Stettler	Stores	\$ 165,803.	Overheated furnace
Big Valley	School	42,100.	Overheated furnace
Redwater	Workshop and toolhouse	15,188.	Unknown
Lethbridge	Garage	17,215.	Unknown
Sexsmith	Garage	12,062.	Unknown
Cardiff	Mine Tipple	50,000.	Unknown
Shaughnessy	Coal Tipple	16,206.	Unknown
La Corey	Store	30,850.	Unknown
Bonnyville	Restaurant and dwelling	24,383.	Defective chimney
Red Deer	Dwelling	11,097.	Faulty chimney
Edmonton	Dwelling	11,000.	Overheated pipe
Drayton Valley	Garage	14,901.	Explosion
Edmonton	School	142,629.	Unknown
McLennan	Store and dwelling	69,849.	Unknown
Falher	Implement machine shop	22,248.	Unknown
Medicine Hat	Manufacturing plant	46,922.	Overheated linseed oil
Edmonton	Stone cutters	10,700.	Unknown
Gibbons	Dwelling	11,000.	Overheated furnace
Edmonton	Stores	43,740.	Unknown
Lomond	Group fires	58,973.	Unknown
Edmonton	Store	261,240.	Unknown
Red Deer	Store	10,229.	Cigarette
Spedden	Store	12,627.	Unknown
Ardmore	Store	21,573.	Unknown
Hairy Hill	Store and dwelling	11,000.	Unknown
Ponoka	Elevator	142,799.	Unknown
Bonnyville	Group fires	179,289.	Sparks from incinerator
Vegreville	Flour and Feed Mill	44,996.	Unknown
Edmonton	Warehouse	19,750.	Unknown
Calgary	Light and power plant	10,000.	Grass fire
Edmonton	Restaurant	10,196.	Incendiary
Montgomery	Dwelling	30,000.	Unknown
Nobleford	Manufacturing plant	13,998.	Welder's torch
Delia	Elevator	99,999.	Unknown
Edmonton	Garage and barn	14,494.	Unknown
Rycroft	Group fires	104,405.	Incendiary
Edmonton	Tent and Awning Manufacturers	19,869.	Unknown
Willingdon	Garage	28,005.	Unknown
Edmonton	Baking plant	27,276.	Unknown
Olds	Dwelling	10,733.	Unknown
Grande Valley	Store and dwelling	10,406.	Gas lamp
Mannville	Garage	24,616.	Unknown
Calgary	Stores	10,412.	Short circuit
Waterways	Group fires	64,039.	Unknown
Falher	Honey producers	17,486.	Unknown
Lac La Biche	Lumber yard	48,289.	Unknown
Half Way House	Garage	42,000.	Spark from welder's torch
Big Valley	Hotel	97,579.	Unknown
Redwater	Curling Rink	22,469.	Unknown
Thorhild	Church	11,430.	Unknown
Calgary	Group fires	111,604.	Natural gas heater
Highland Park	Store	15,446.	Suspected incendiary
Abee	Store	13,889.	Unknown
Canyon Creek	Store	13,383.	Unknown

<u>Location</u>	<u>Occupancy</u>	<u>Loss</u>	<u>Cause</u>
Edmonton	Furrier shop	\$ 16,169.	Unknown
Chauvin	Stores	27,538.	Christmas tree lights
New Sarepta	Hotel	25,161.	Unknown
McNabb	Elevator	65,204.	Oil stove
Winfield	Sawmill	31,422.	Unknown
Lloydminster	Garage	26,209.	Underground gasoline tank overflowed when being filled
Edmonton	Garage	18,076.	Clearing gas line in auto
Drumheller	Theatre	131,626.	Unknown
Parkland	Motor vehicle cargo	10,502.	Heater
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,744,299.</b>	

TABLE NO. 9

INSPECTIONS AND ORDERS ISSUED

Number of cities, towns and villages visited and inspected .....	372
Number of orders to remedy conditions (written) .....	141
Number of orders to remedy conditions (verbal) .....	716
Number of orders to remedy conditions ((written) by fire chiefs) .....	8
Number of written recommendations .....	2,081
Number of buildings inspected .....	2,016

## Character of Orders Issued:

Recharge or provide fire extinguishing equipment .....	21
Improve housekeeping conditions .....	10
Repair or instal fire alarm system .....	13
Protect combustible material near stovepipes and heaters .....	10
Provide exit doors and panic bolts .....	21
Provide outside fire escapes .....	10
Enclose inside stairways .....	3
Remove grease, dirt, etc. from hoods over stoves and ranges .....	2
Remove grease and dirt from electric motors .....	3
Post directional fire exit signs .....	2
Repair faulty electric wiring .....	3
Discontinue gasoline for cleaning purposes .....	2
Instal lights or signs over exits .....	4
Tear down or repair dilapidated buildings .....	1
Provide underground storage for petroleum products .....	8
Build or repair brick chimneys .....	3
Provide covered metal rubbish containers .....	4
Relocate or correct hazards at bulk fuel oil stations .....	7
Provide approved and correctly installed oil burning equipment .....	1
Discontinue storage under stairways .....	3
Provide draft hood for natural gas appliance .....	1
Remove haystack 200 feet from nearest building .....	1
Remove or provide burner for planing mill shavings .....	8
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>141</b>

## Special Inspections:

Schools .....	61	Institutions .....	21
Town fire departments .....	70	Others .....	149
Hospitals .....	42	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>343</b>

**Special Activities:**

	<u>Meetings</u>	<u>Films</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
Fire Prevention .....	146	102	13,587
Civil Defence .....	51	44	4,257
Fire Department Equipment .....	88	39	1,695
Others .....	47	2	250
<b>TOTAL .....</b>	<b>332</b>	<b>187</b>	<b>19,789</b>

**Fire Drills:**

Schools .....	128	Institutions .....	9
Hospitals .....	34	Others .....	9
<b>TOTAL .....</b>			<b>180</b>

Number of fire departments inspected .....	108	Fire department practices held .....	105
Written recommendations to towns and villages re fire protection equipment .....	455	Demonstrations of extinguishers in schools and hospitals .....	158

**Plans Checked and Type of Building:**

Schools .....	108	Rectories .....	1
Hospitals .....	24	Dormitories .....	3
Nurses' Homes .....	10	Bulk Warehouses .....	4
Hotels .....	10	Others .....	1
Arenas .....	3	<b>TOTAL .....</b>	<b>164</b>

TABLE NO. 10

**FIRE INVESTIGATIONS**

Number of fires investigated (departmental investigations only) .....	118
Number of Informations Laid reported to the department (arson) .....	8
Number of Convictions (arson) .....	6
Stay of Proceedings Entered (arson) .....	Nil
Charge Withdrawn (arson) .....	1
Action Pending (arson) .....	1
Committed to Juvenile Home .....	Nil

Incendiary .....	14
Suspected Incendiary .....	26

**PROSECUTIONS - FIRE PREVENTION ACT**

Non-compliance with the Fire Prevention Order .....	1
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**Inspectors' Mileage:**

Mileage by car .....	73,564
Mileage by train .....	1,075
<b>TOTAL .....</b>	<b>74,639</b>

**TABLE NO. 11**  
**STATEMENT OF FATALITIES - 1951**

<u>Originating Cause</u>	<u>Men</u>	<u>Women</u>	<u>Children</u>	<u>Total</u>
Smoke and Gas Suffocation	5		2	7
Clothing ignited from:				
(a) Fireplaces and Open Grates		1		1
(b) Furnaces, Stoves and Heaters			1	1
(c) Smoking and Matches		2		2
Entering a burning building	1			1
Fire fighting - firemen	1			1
Kerosene, Range Oil and Fuel Oil				
(a) Stoves, Lamps and Torches			1	1
(b) Used to kindle fire	2			2
Petroleum Production and Storage	1			1
Trapped in burning buildings	5	1	4	10
Children left unattended			1	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>28</b>

Injuries by fire discovered by investigations, and  
taken from newspaper reports 27

**TABLE NO. 12**  
**INSPECTIONS MADE BY FIRE CHIEFS AND OTHER LOCAL ASSISTANTS, AND**  
**FIRE LOSSES AT MUNICIPALITIES REPORTING INSPECTIONS**

<u>Place</u>	<u>No. of Bldgs. Inspected</u>	<u>No. of Orders Issued.</u>	<u>Fire Loss</u>	<u>Population</u>
Alix	12	1	\$	465
Alliance	4			300
Andrew	35	191	150.	625
Ardmore			20,000.	184
Athabasca	4		5,059.	1,063
Banff	99		4,594.	2,550
Barrhead	300	169	3,656.	1,246
Bashaw	30		6,500.	600
Bassano	34		206.	750
Bawlf	22			300
Beaverlodge	20			60
(Experimental Station)				
Beverly			5,139.	2,150
Big Valley	10		125,000.	350
Bittern Lake	5			62
Blackie	12			225
Blackfalds			300.	110
Blairmore	16		13,678.	2,000
Bluffton	10			100
Bonnyville	17	17	193,463.	1,200
Boyle	18			300
Bow Island			2,286.	657
Brooks	4		331.	2,500
Brownvale	25			125
Calgary	5,307	4	374,441.	135,000
Calmar	40	61	336.	943
Camrose			5,757.	4,128

<u>Place</u>	<u>No. of Bldgs. Inspected</u>	<u>No. of Orders Issued</u>	<u>Fire Loss</u>	<u>Population</u>
Cardston	2	4	\$ 2,509.	2,500
Carmangay	7	2		300
Castor	9			300
Champion	25			300
Chipman	48			250
Claresholm			747.	1,612
Clyde	8			211
Coleman	15		11,369.	2,000
Consort	1			400
Coronation			8,593.	738
Daysland	57		60.	600
Delia	154		60,000.	285
Derwent	36			300
Devon	108		279.	1,347
Didsbury			7,035.	1,176
Donalda	30			350
Drumheller	10	6	137,515.	2,574
Eckville	20	3		350
Edmonton	13,607	289	848,114.	158,912
Edson			8,436.	1,951
Elk Point	1			550
Fairview	6	3	100,090.	924
Falher	18			800
Fort McMurray			100.	614
Frank	4		3,000.	250
Gibbons	15			150
Girouxville	22		18,250.	180
Gleichen	7			475
Grande Prairie	75		10,079.	4,000
Granum	20			330
Grimshaw	28			580
Hanna			6,281.	2,013
Hardisty	10		75.	600
High Prairie			9,943.	1,140
High River	29		3,178.	1,800
Hines Creek	25		4,000.	280
Holden				500
Innisfail			2,587.	1,416
Innisfree	24			385
Irma	15			365
Irricana	11		1,200.	150
Jarvie	8			280
Jasper Place	31	4	10,433.	10,000
Kinuso	30	16	2,406.	450
Lac La Biche			54,801.	905
Lacombe			2,218.	2,273
Lamont	20			636
Leduc	50		1,306.	2,000
Lethbridge	1,521	7	31,251.	23,000
Lloydminster	15	7	127,318.	3,921
Lougheed	5			184
Macleod			1,711.	1,864
Magrath	20		254.	1,400
Manning	12		3,000.	650
Mannville	12	2	15,000.	526
Mayerthorpe	4		130.	472
Medicine Hat	980	3	57,365.	16,400

<u>Place</u>	<u>No. of Bldgs. Inspected</u>	<u>No. of Orders Issued</u>	<u>Fire Loss</u>	<u>Population</u>
McLennan	12	3	\$ 72,272.	1,064
Milo		1		135
Minburn				200
Morinville			5,360.	891
Mundare	34			850
Nanton			6,524.	926
Nobleford			14,000.	300
Okotoks			1,741.	766
Olds			1,140.	1,605
Peace River	4		21,451.	1,677
Picture Butte	35			1,000
Pincher Creek	365		19.	1,500
Ponoka			144,191.	2,574
Provost			1,100.	750
Raymond	25		2,566.	2,300
Redcliff	7		830.	1,639
Red Deer	150	35	36,332.	7,553
Redwater	100	1	31,512.	1,500
Rimbey			287.	757
Rocky Mountain House			5,018.	1,147
Rumsey	2			110
Rycroft	10	36	90,000.	385
Ryley	8			411
St. Albert			2,876.	1,125
St. Paul	150		8,576.	2,000
Seba Beach	5		200.	104
Sexsmith	132	12	20,000.	400
Smoky Lake	127	10	75.	570
Stettler			176,166.	2,421
Stony Plain			1,542.	875
Strathmore			4,323.	706
Suffield			100.	800
(Experimental Station)				
Sylvan Lake			80.	984
Taber			3,125.	3,026
Thorhild			90,000.	350
Three Hills			3,000.	1,200
Tilley	10			250
Trochu		40		600
Turner Valley	6			900
Two Hills	20		300.	550
Vegreville	57	54	47,825.	2,300
Vermilion			2,966.	1,984
Vulcan			188.	1,053
Wabamun	14			14 families
Wainwright			1,816.	1,994
Warner	40	4		400
Westlock	25	1	14,408.	1,200
Wetaskiwin	4		8,328.	4,000
Wildwood	15	35		475
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>24,536</b>	<b>1,021</b>	<b>\$3,131,766.</b>	





